

REMARKS

Claims 2-19 and 21 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17 and 21 are amended and claims 1 and 20 are canceled. Support for amended claims 2, 6, 10, 14 and 21 can be found, for example, in Figures 14, 16, 18 and 20. Claims 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16 and 17 are amended to be consistent with amended claims 2, 6, 10 and 14. No new matter is added. In light of the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); and (b) does not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration or issues of new matter.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,453,302 to Johnson et al. (hereinafter "Johnson"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Johnson fails to disclose that the information to be published is selected first, and then the template is selected to fit the information, as recited in independent claims 2, 6, 10, 14 and 21. Claims 2, 6, 10, 14, and 21 do not explicitly recite the order of the steps, however, each of those claims require that the layout be selected based on one or more aspects of the published information. In other words, the published information is selected prior to the selection of other information. For example, the fifth clause of claim 2 recites "a template selection device to select a template out of the template storage device according to the amount of published information selected by the published information selection device..." The fifth clause can only be interpreted to mean that the template is selected based on previously defined information. In particular, the use of the terms "according to," implies that the template is selected based on previously defined information. In claim 2, the previously

defined material is the published information. Claims 6, 10, 14 and 21 include language similar to clause 2 of claim 2, and thus must be interpreted in the same manner as claim 2.

In light of the above remarks, according to claims 2, 6, 10, 14, and 21, the published information must be selected prior to the template.

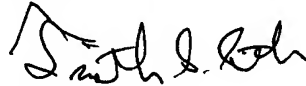
In Johnson, the template is selected first, based on the purpose of the presentation (see e.g., Fig. 3, step 306). That is, for example, a cover page template 400 is selected to present introductory information (C10/L12-27). After selection of the template, information is selected to fill the template, such as a cover story graphic 408, an overview of the proposal 414, etc. (Fig. 3, step 308, C10/L28-37). Accordingly, Johnson discloses the exact opposite order of steps as the claimed invention. Thus, Johnson cannot reasonably be considered to disclose that the information to be published is selected first, and then the template is selected to fit the information.

Because Johnson fails to at least disclose that the information to be published is selected first, and then the template is selected to fit the information, claims 2, 6, 10, 14, and 21 are patentable over Johnson. Further, claims 3-5, 7-9, 11-13, and 15-19 are patentable for at least the reasons that claims 2, 6, 10, and 14 are patentable, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicants earnestly solicit favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 2-19 and 21.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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